

James Bachtell

From: Karl Miller [lecompte10@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2011 4:10 PM
To: James Bachtell
Subject: LeCompte E-Rate waiver with the dates included in letter

FILED/ACCEPTED

AUG 26 2011

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Karl Miles LeCompte Memorial Library
 110 S. Franklin ST.
 Corydon, IA. 50060
 (641) 872-1621
 lecompte10@yahoo.com

CC: 02-6

Appellant Name: Karl Miles LeCompte Memorial Library
Applicant Service Provider: South Central Communications
BEN:131845
USAC app. #821479
Funding Year 2011 Form 471 Postmarked Outside of Window Letter
Asking For a Waiver

This Waiver Letter was originally sent to the FCC by mail on July 29 after I received a letter from USAC stating that they had received this letter on July 25, but they did not make decisions on waivers and that the letter would have to be sent on to the FCC. I included a copy of the USAC letter with my original letter by mail.

To: FCC

Our library would like to sincerely apologize for our E-Rate forms being late this year, which is the reason for us needing to file an appeal this year. The reason for the forms being late this year is due to the fact that I'm a new director and this is the first time I've ever filed for E-Rate. I took over as director in July 2010 with only a two week training period before the previous director retired. Since I started so late in the year, my training didn't include how to do E-Rate since it had already been filed for that year. So all the retiring director could tell me about E-Rate was that our library did use it and that the due dates weren't posted yet, but that I would be receiving an e-mail later about when the E-Rate was due. Well I didn't receive an e-mail about E-Rate until February 26, 2011 from Jay Peterson at the Iowa State Library. His email stated that the E-Rate window was open and would remain open until March 24 and that there had been changes made to E-Rate requirement for 2011. Since I received his email on a Saturday there was no way of contacting Jay Peterson with questions until the next week. I did call him that next week on Tuesday, because I do not work on Mondays and asked him what all needed to be done this year to qualify for E-Rate. He told me what forms needed to be filed and in what order, but said I had missed the first window due date for form 470 by four days. I then told him that I hadn't known of any due dates for E-Rate, because his email was the first notification I had received and that I was a new director. He then asked when I had started and I told him and he said that he had sent emails about E-Rate, but that they had been sent before I started which were for the 2010 E-Rate and then later about the changes that were to be made for the 2011 E-Rate. So the only email that was sent out about E-Rate since I started was the one I received on February 26.

Jay did apologize for there not having been more emails with information about E-Rate being made available to me. He said he had not known that our library had a new director or he would have been in contact with me. He said I had started at a bad time, because this year even the public library management class weren't being offered until April. He said that if I had started earlier I would have not only received his emails about E-Rate and could have been trained in it I would have also been able to have taken the class where I would have had a chance to get my questions answered by other library directors and learn about all the contacts at the State Library who could answer my questions. He then told me I could still file for E-Rate but that it would be late and that I would have to wait the 28 days for the bidding process after filing the 470 to do the 471. He said because my forms were late that I would have to file an appeal letter after I did receive the letter saying I had been denied.

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8/25/2011

As soon as I got off the phone with Jay that day I filed the form 470 and then waited the 28 days to file the form 471 and I submitted it on March 29. Had I had been notified a few days sooner neither of my forms would have been late and won't be again now that I know how to file E-Rate and where to go for that information. So please over turn the E-Rate decline decision with this appeal, because I know how important the E-Rate assistance is to our library. Our library doesn't have the funds in our budget to be able to pay the full phone bill without the assistance we get with E-Rate.

Our library has applied and used E-Rate for several years and have never had to file an appeal until this year. We truly appreciate the assistance that E-Rate provides our library with. So please don't make my mistake and lack of knowledge the reason for our library being denied and causing more financial concerns for our library. Thank you for taking the time to consider our appeal.

Sincerely,
LeCompte Mem. Library Director
Jessica Warembourg